AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method of treating ~~an underlying cause of~~ a pathological condition characterized by an increased IL-1 and/or TNF-α level which comprises administering to a subject having such condition a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from a first group consisting of diacerein and rhein in a pharmaceutical dosage form;

wherein said pathological condition is an inflammation or autoimmune disease; and

wherein said pathological condition is selected from the group consisting of psoriatic arthritis, Wegener's disease, granulomatosis, asthma, pulmonary emphysema, Paget's disease, bone metastases, atherosclerosis, myeloma and myeloid leukemia.

2. (Cancel)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said group member is diacerein.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said therapeutically effective amount is a daily dose of about 25 to about 500 mg of said group member.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each unit dose of said pharmaceutical dosage form contains about 5 to about 500 mg of said group member.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each unit dose of said pharmaceutical dosage form contains about 20 mg to about 200 mg of said group member.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each unit dose of said pharmaceutical dosage form contains about 5 to about 100 mg of said group member.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 where each unit dose of said pharmaceutical dosage form contains about 50 mg of said group member.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said dosage form is a capsule.

11. (Currently Amended) Method of treating ~~an underlying cause of an~~ inflammatory and/or autoimmune condition characterized by an increased IL-1 and/or TNF-α level which comprises modifying the production or action of proinflammatory cytokines including said IL-1 and/or TNF-α by administering to a subject having such condition a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from a first group consisting of diacerein and rhein in a pharmaceutical dosage form.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said group member is diacerein.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said condition is rheumatoid arthritis.

14. (Previously Presented) Method for reducing the synthesis of IL-1 and TNF-α which comprises administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of diacerein and rhein in a pharmaceutical dosage form.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the first group member is administered in association with a treatment to relieve symptomatic discomfort.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said method of treatment further comprises also administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from a second group consisting of: (i) an IL-1 synthesis inhibitor, (ii) a TNF- α synthesis inhibitor, (iii) a composition that lowers the levels of IL-1, (iv) a

composition that lowers the level of TNF- α, (v) an IL-1 receptor antagonist, (vi) a TNF- α receptor antagonist, (vii) a composition that down-regulates the number of IL-1 receptors, (viii) a composition that down-regulates the number of TNF- α receptors, and (ix) a combination thereof.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second group members are co-administered.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second group members are administered in association with each other.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the need for surgery to treat said pathological condition is avoided, delayed or reduced by administering the first group member.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the first group member is administered in association with a treatment to avoid, delay or reduce the need for surgery to treat said pathological condition.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the first group member is administered in association with the treatment to relieve symptomatic discomfort.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the need for surgery to treat said pathological condition is avoided, delayed or reduced by administering the first group member.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the first group member is administered in association with a treatment to avoid, delay or reduce the need for surgery to treat said pathological condition.